

24 April 1980

To: SRP

Subject: NIC Production Plans for 1980-81

For the following reasons, it is especially difficult for the SRP to propose additions to the menu already assembled.

a. The presentations in toto greatly exceed NIO, AG and NFAC resources. We do not know which items Richard Lehman (and Burce Clarke) will give a high priority, making it more likely that they will be done.

b. This being a Presidential election year, commitments must be regarded as specially tentative, especially after 1980 because new policymakers demands are likely to be made.

c. We have much less knowledge than the NIOs about available resources or particular subjects.

At the same time, the present items are only a sum of proposals by individual NIOs. The NIC did not engage in a collegial discussion on what is needed across regional boundaries. This places more of a responsibility on the SRP to attend to this perspective.

Tentatively, I suggest the following themes as candidates for the SRP proposal. (I know that some of

these are also on the minds of other SRP members).

a. How will the balance (or balances) of military power in Southwest Asia and the central Middle East evolve over the next several years? With particular attention to possible Soviet uses of force (also US?), India vs Pakistan, Iraq vs Iran; Saudi Arabia vs Yemens, US vs Soviet Union. (This assumes that Soviet intentions in the region will obtain continuous intelligence attention.)

b. Soviet penetration in the Third World: Strategy, Tactics, Modes, Allies, Surrogates.

c. How will the consequences of sub-par economic growth, persistent inflation, energy shortages, and rising protectionism in OEDC Europe affect relationships with the United States in these matters, but also with regard to collective defense and diplomacy?

d. While a paper is planned on Poland, should there not be an estimate of more general scope on Communist Eastern Europe addressing political implications of growing economic difficulties (including energy), pressures for change in East European ties with the West, prospects for and implications of leadership changes, and Soviet policies toward their East European clients. (Even if all of these countries cannot be covered, an estimate

on Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia would be desirable.

e. There are also some interesting questions that could be addressed on the global level:

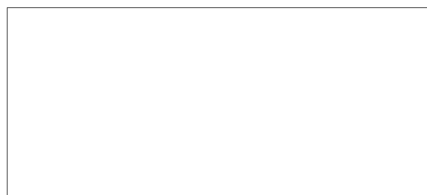
(1) What new patterns of regional and interregional power relations are developing, and what do these changes mean to the US?

(2) Are there new emerging power centers developing in the LDC world, and are these becoming more autonomous from the superpowers?

(3) How do arms trade, new local arms production, and prospective nuclear proliferation affect this picture?

f. (And more tentatively): There have been previous suggestion for an estimate of changing foreign perceptions of US (and perhaps also USSR) international strengths and weaknesses. This subject seems still to be interesting. And a further dimension could be added: What have been and are likely to be foreign reactions to different ways in which the US attempted and may attempt to recoup US influence and power abroad? A new Administration might be seriously interested in such an estimate.

Would our case for additions be strengthened if we proposed that some of the items on the current list could be deleted or postponed?



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